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15 August 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Review Committee

THROUGH   : Deputy Director (Intelligence)
                  Deputy Director (Administration)

FROM   : Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence

SUBJECT   : Proposed Continuation of the Machine Indexing
                  Project

                              Total Funds Required: $67,500 FY-53

PROBLEM

    1. To provide for the continuation of the Machine Indexing Project
into FY 1953 in order to determine whether the new indexing system can be
put to a practical application in CIA within a reasonable period of time.

BACKGROUND

    2. The present CIA indexing system has serious limitations because
it uses the equipment designed for accounting purposes and consequently
does not have the selectivity required in our type of research. New
machines have been designed by IBM which will be available by the end of
the year and which are believed capable of the selectivity and collation
needed. The creation of the necessary and rather elaborate code is the
mission of the Machine Indexing Project.

25X1A5A1   3. The subject program was initiated on a small scale at [ ] in   25X1A5A1
September 1950 (Project OSI-57-51) under the direction of Dr. [ ]   25X1A5A1
[ ] to consider advanced techniques for handling information for
reference purposes and their applicability to Agency needs. Principal
attention was given to the newly developed IBM equipment designed for
information scanning. During FY 1952, efforts were directed towards
development of a system for indexing scientific and technical material
so that automatic equipment, especially certain recently developed IBM
machines can be used to scan the indices and select out desired infor-
mation. For this purpose the scientific and technical terminology was
processed in great volume in order to construct the code. This work
was authorized under Project ORR 79-52 for the total of $75,000, of
which $50,000 was expended.

    4. None of the Agency funds have or will be used for machine
development which is financed entirely by [ ]

                                                          25X1A5A1

S-E-C-R-E-T

b. $52,500 for support of the External ...
31 Dec 1952 through the intermediary of [ ] from the   25X1A2D1
amount of $500,000 budgeted for [ ] research for FY 53.

S-E-C-R-E-T

Security Information

DISCUSSION

5. To obtain benefits from this study, it will be necessary for it to be continued at least to the extent as proposed in this paper.

6. It is anticipated that the new system would not require a large staff of highly trained people inasmuch as the research analysts already on board would play an assisting role in making the system work, and that the present intellofax system would continue to serve a necessary and important function and would be supplemented by the new system.

7. It has been agreed by the interested offices that since the project is broader than the needs of OSI the supervision of the entire program should be placed under the Office of Organization and Methods Service (DD/A), which has agreed to carry out that supervision. That office will work closely with the other offices in supporting and monitoring this project.

THE PROGRAM

8. The program for next year will consist of an internal program which beginning 1 January 1953 will be an experiment in OSI on scientific intelligence materials, and a supporting external program at [   ] under

25X1A2D1

25X1A5A1

The requirements for the internal program are set forth in
25X1A2D1 Annex 2. [   ] report of status and plans is stated in Annex 3, and its estimated budget in Annex 4.

RECOMMENDATION

9. It is recommended that $67,500 in FY 1953 funds be made available for the continuation of the Machine Indexing Project as discussed above, these funds being broken down as follows:

a. $35,000 for support of the Internal Program throughout Fiscal Year 53 from funds allocated to OSI for contractual services.

b. $32,500 for support of the External Program through 31 December 1952 through the intermediary of [   ] from the amount of $500,000 budgeted for [   ] research for FY 53.

25X1A2D1

25X1A2D1

25X1A9A

ANNEXES: 1 Project Clearance Sheet
2 Internal CIA Program
3 Status and Plans
25X1A2D1 4 [   ] Budget for External Program

S-E-C-R-E-T

CONCURRENCES:

25X1A9A

/S/

Deputy Director (Intelligence)   20 August 1952
                                                        Date

Deputy Director (Administration)   Date

ACTION BY APPROVING AUTHORITY:

                                    Date: _____

Approved (Disapproved), exceptions, if any

                                    Signature _____

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